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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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**Highway Safety Officials Remind Everyone To Have A Safe Family
Holiday**

1 Injured in alcohol-related crash last week, 29 arrested for DUI, 1 checkpoint & 132 DUI patrols scheduled over the Christmas Holiday.

Dover – This holiday season, whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or another holiday, highway safety officials remind everyone to give the gift of safe driving and keep each other safe on the roads this holiday season by designating a sober driver, limiting distractions in the car, and allow plenty of time to get to your destination to alleviate aggressive driving behaviors.

According to police reports, 1 person was injured in an alcohol-related crash last week. This brings the total number of people injured in an impaired driving crash since Thanksgiving to 20. Fortunately, so far this holiday season, no one has been killed in an alcohol related crash.

The DUI Tree project memorializes alcohol-related deaths and injuries which occur during the campaign period by placing colored light bulbs on the tree to represent each victim. Each red bulb on the tree symbolizes someone killed in an alcohol-related crash in Delaware between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. Each green light bulb symbolizes someone injured in an impaired driving crash. At this time last year, the first red bulb was added to the tree and there was a total of 44 green bulbs.

Last weekend Delaware law enforcement officers conducted sobriety checkpoints and DUI saturation patrol statewide which resulted in the arrest of 29 people for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or drugs. In addition to the weekend's DUI arrests, officers issued 10 cell phone citations, 5 citations for underage drinking violations, apprehended 18 wanted individuals, made 6 drug arrests, 5 felony arrests, issued 29 seat belt citations, 2 child restraint citations, and 582 citations for various other traffic violations.

One sobriety checkpoint and 60 DUI saturation patrols are scheduled for Christmas weekend (Dec 23-24) and another 72 DUI saturation patrols are scheduled for Dec. 25-29. The checkpoint will be held as follows:

Friday Dec. 23rd – Wilmington- NcCo DUI Task Force

The 13^h annual Safe Family Holiday campaign runs from Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve and involves a combination of high visibility enforcement efforts and public awareness activities. For more information on the campaign, visit our website at www.ohs.delaware.gov and click on the Safe Family Holiday link on the left side of the page or Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ArriveAliveDE.

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